

- - REMARKS - -

Claims 1-20 were in this application, and were rejected.

The informality noted by the Examiner in claim 20 has been corrected.

Claims 1-6, 8-15 and 17-20 were rejected under section 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,742,998 to Schubert ("Schubert '998"), and claims 7 and 16 were rejected under section 103 over Schubert '998. While Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's characterization of this reference, independent claims 1, 10 and 19 have been amended to clarify that the damping characteristics of the mount are adjusted as a function of a difference between an actual value of the capacitance between the first plate and the second plate and an expected value of the capacitance between the first and second plates. Schubert '998 neither shows nor suggests such an arrangement.

Dependent claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 depend entirely on independent claim 1. Therefore, these dependent claims include all the elements and limitations of independent claim 1. The Applicant therefore respectfully submits that dependent claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 are allowable over Schubert '998 for at least the same reason as set forth above with respect to independent claim 1. Allowance of dependent claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18 depend entirely on independent claim 10. Therefore, these dependent claims include all the elements and limitations of independent claim 10. The Applicant therefore respectfully submits that dependent claims 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18 are allowable over Schubert '998 for at least the same reason as set forth above with respect to independent claim 1. Allowance of dependent claims 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18 is respectfully requested.

Dependent claim 20 depends entirely on independent claim 19. Therefore dependent claim 20 includes all the elements and limitations of independent claim 19. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that dependent claim 20 is allowable over Schubert '998 for at least the same reason as set forth above with respect to independent claim 19. Allowance of dependent claim 20 is respectfully requested.

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested, and the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' representative to discuss any remaining issues.

SUMMARY

Examiner Rodriguez's rejections have been obviated by the above remarks. In view of the foregoing remarks, favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

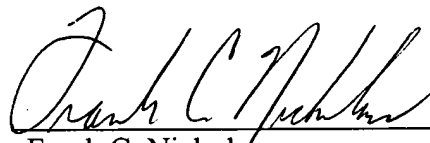
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Amended) A mount for a powertrain component of a motor vehicle, the mount comprising:

a first plate connected to one of the powertrain component or a frame of the motor vehicle;

a second plate connected to the other of the powertrain component or the frame of the motor vehicle; and

means for measuring a capacitance between the first plate and the second plate to derive an actual value, comparing the actual value with an expected value, and adjusting damping characteristics of the mount as a function of [the capacitance between the first plate and the second plate] a difference between the actual value and the expected value.

10. (Amended) A mount for a powertrain component of a motor vehicle, the mount comprising:

a first plate connected to one of the powertrain component or a frame of the motor vehicle;

a second plate connected to the other of the powertrain component or the frame of the motor vehicle; and

a controller connected to the first plate and to the second plate, the controller generating a signal indicative of [the capacitance between the first plate and the second plate] a difference between an actual value of the capacitance between the first plate and the second plate and an expected value of the capacitance between the first plate and the second plate.

19. (Amended) A system for controlling the damping characteristics of a motor vehicle powertrain mount, the system comprising:

a first, positively charged plate fixed relative to one of the powertrain component or a frame of the motor vehicle;

a second, negatively charged plate fixed relative to the other of the powertrain component or the frame of the motor vehicle; and

a controller connected to the first plate and to the second plate, the controller adjusting the damping characteristics of the mount as a function of a difference between an actual value of the capacitance between the first plate and the second plate and an expected value of the capacitance between the first and second plates.

20. (Amended) The mount of claim 19 wherein the controller adjusts the damping characteristics of the [mounts] mount as a function of the change in capacitance between the first plate and the second plate.